WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export of Agro-Products to Australia

876. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a vast potential and better market access for its products in Australia;

(b) if so, the details of the opportunities that the Indian agro and rural industries have in Australia; and

(c) the steps being taken by his Ministry to export more and more agro products to Autstralia?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Potential does exist for export of Indian agro products to Australia. However, market access for agricultural products to Australia is subject to strict Quarantine Regulations. The steps taken by the Government to promote Indian agro products include regular discussions with the Australian authorities through the mechanisms of Joint Ministerial commission and Joint business Council, and regular contact between the Export Inspection Unit and the Australian Quarantine and Inspections Services for conclusion of a bilateral Agreement to address mutual concerns. Agricultural products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has regularly participated in the international Fine Food Fair in Australia to promote Indian agro products.

Deteriorating rural and cottage industries

†877. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the condition of traditional rural cottage industries is continuously deteriorating;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to promote rural industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.